THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) 9,392 applications for issue of fresh passports were pending for clearanoe at the Regional Passport, Hyderabad as on 3lst March, 1987.'

(b) Out of the total pending cases as on 31-3-1987, 3,781 passport applications were pending for more than three months. No passport applica-cation was pending for more than six monthg.

(t) The reason for pendency was non-receipt of identity reports from file Police Authorities concerned. •

(d) 1, The Foreign Secretary has recently written to all Chief Secretaries of State Government requesting them to impress upon their Police authorities the need for expeditious disposal of passport Verification Reports.

2. The Passport Officer has been directed to remind regularly the State Police/CID authorities to send their reports as early as posible. He has also been directed to visit Distt. Headquarters and meet Distt. SSP with a view to seek their personal co-operation in clearance of arrears.

STC building

987. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA: SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a corporate headquarter has been built at Rs. 700/- per square foot by the State Trading Corporation which is more than double the narmal rate; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

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THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI); (a) and (b) The provisional cost of the STC building, as Per- the latest estimates approved by the Government, works out to approximately Rs. 616/- per sy. foot. Since the construction work is still in progress and certain claims of the contractor have to be settled on the basis of arbitration award, the final cost is likely to go up further.

This cost cannot be taken as mora than double the normal rate as tha cost of construction varies from building to building depending upon various factors like structural pattern, height, type of glazing, extent of Are detection and fire protection systems, central air-conditioning, internal and external finishing etc-

Fire ln Kirti Nagar industrial area

988. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPE-NDRA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a prin ting press and goods worth several crores of rupees were destroyer in a fire in Kirti Nagar ndustrial area in Delhi on 30th December, 1986; and

(b) if so, whether investigations have been made into the causes of the fire, and if so, what is the out come thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): (a) A fire broke out in the premises No. 9/54, Kirti Nagar Industrial Area, New Delhi on the 30th December, 1986. The major portion of the premises was occupied by M/s, T&R Industries and a portion by Surya Press. The estimated loss as reported to the Delhi Police is about Rs. 60 lakhs.